

## Message Text

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10

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 EB-07 /062 W

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O 090935Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL MADRAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2883

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MADRAS 0610

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJ: IMPROVEMENT IN INDO-US RELATIONS ?

REF: NEW DELHI 6207

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT ARTICLE BY T.V. PARASURAM PUBLISHED  
IN MADRAS EDITION INDIAN EXPRESS MORNING MAY 9 UNDER  
HEADING, "EFFORTS AGAIN TO NORMALIZE INDO-US TIES."  
"WASHINGTON, MAY 8. IN A SUDDEN CHANGE IN THE INDO-  
AMERICAN POLITICAL CLIMATE, THERE ARE ONCE AGAIN EFFORTS TO  
NORMALIZE INDO-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND HESITANT  
ATTEMPTS TO PERSUADE THE COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO COME  
TOGETHER IN AN ARRANGEMENT SHORT OF A MILITARY PACT TO PROMOTE  
PEACE AND STABILITY IN SOUTH AND SOUTH-EAST ASIA.

EARLIER THIS WEEK THERE WAS A MEETING IN THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT BETWEEN DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE INGERSOLL  
AND INDIAN AMBASSADOR KAUL. THIS IS TO BE FOLLOWED UP  
BY A MEETING BETWEEN SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND  
MR. KAUL BEFORE THE LATTER RETURNS TO INDIA FOR CONSULTATIONS.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS INDICATED THAT IT WOULD LIKE  
THE SUBCOMMISSIONS TO CONTINUE THEIR WORK AND TO WELCOME  
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EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER Y.B. CHAVAN FOR THE FIRST MEETING

OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE DATE.

OF EVEN GREATER SIGNIFICANCE ARE FEELERS ALONG THE LINES FIRST SUGGESTED BY PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI IN THE LATE SIXTIES IN A MAJOR SPEECH IN NEW ZEALAND. NOTHING HAS BEEN PUT ON PAPER OR EVEN THOUGHT THROUGH BUT, BROADLY SPEAKING, THE IDEA IS THAT INDIA, BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN, AFGHANISTAN, AND IRAN AND MAYBE OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION TOO, IF THEY ARE WILLING, SHOULD INCREASE THEIR ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION, AND DRAW CLOSER ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. IF THIS CAN BE DONE THERE COULD BE A BRIDGE TO SOUTH EAST ASIA WITH THE ASEAN COUNTRIES, MAY BE WITH THE NEW INDO-CHINA STATES INCLUDED.

THE BASIS FOR SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE NON-INTERFERENCE IN THE REGION BY THE BIG POWERS BUT THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES CAN SUPPORT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT IF THEY WISH AND SO CAN CHINA. WITH THE UNITED STATES UNWILLING TO PLAY THE ROLE OF POLICEMAN OF THE WORLD, THE SOVIET UNION DISINTERESTED AND CHINA CLAIMING THAT IT IS PART OF THE THIRD WORLD, IT IS FELT IT IS POSSIBLE TO EXPLORE THE POTENTIALITIES. IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR NORMALIZATION OF INDO-PAKISTAN RELATIONS BEFORE ONE CAN THINK IN THESE LARGER TERMS BUT AT LEAST AT SOME LEVELS PAKISTAN HAS INDICATED THAT IT WANTS INDIAN FRIENDSHIP. THE UNITED STATES IS CERTAINLY IN A POSITION TO PROMOTE INDO-PAKISTAN CO-OPERATION ON THE BASIS OF THE REALITIES OF THE SUB-CONTINENT.

THE KEY TO ANY SUCH DEVELOPMENT WILL BE AMERICAN WILLINGNESS TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT ON THE ARMS ISSUE. IN PRIVATE TALKS AT LEAST THE UNITED STATES SEEMS ANXIOUS TO DO THIS BUT MUCH WILL DEPEND UPON VARIOUS PULLS AND COUNTER-PULLS IN THE REASSESSMENT OF AMERICA'S POLICY TOWARDS THE REGION.

INDIA SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THE NEW DELHI REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO AMERICAN OFFICIALS THAT PRESIDENT FORD MAY BE UNCLASSIFIED

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FORCED TO CANCEL HIS INDIAN VISIT LATER THIS YEAR, IS TOTALLY WITHOUT FOUNDATION.

MEANWHILE, IT IS LEARNT CHINA HAS INDICATED TO THE UNITED STATES THAT IT WANTS CONTINUED AMERICAN PRESENCE IN NORTH-EAST ASIA BUT NOT IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA. AS PART OF THIS STRATEGY TO CONTAIN SOVIET INFLUENCE WHILE INCREASING ITS OWN, CHINA WILL EXERT

A RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON NORTH KOREA."

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